

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 18 are in this application and are presented for consideration.

The drawings have been objected to because the drawings are of poor quality and fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference number “4” was used to designate both “means for analyzing said electrical signals” and an “electromyographic apparatus and reference number “5” was used to designate both “means for analyzing said electrical signals” and an “interface.”

Applicant has now proposed replacements sheets where there are no extraneous markings. Further, the substitute specification removes the issues as to the reference numbers. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful review of the drawings and for the helpful comments.

The specification and abstract have been objected to with regard to form and arrangement. Applicant now proposes a substitute specification where Applicant has revised the specification paying close attention to the Examiner's comments. Applicant notes that the comments of the Examiner were very helpful and Applicant has made minor changes and corrections as appropriate. Further, the substitute specification removes the issues as to headings and the abstract.

The claims have been objected to based on informalities. Applicant has revised the claims paying close attention to the Examiner's comments. Applicant notes that the comments of the Examiner were very helpful and Applicant has made minor changes and corrections as appropriate.

New Claims 7-18 have been added. Independent Claims 7 and 13 are similar to Claim 1 and having similar elements as Claim 1. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the combination of an apparatus for controlling childbirth labor having a pneumatic belt to be fixed around a parturient's abdomen and a means for inflating the pneumatic belt to provide a thrust as an aid for expulsion of a fetus. The apparatus also having a device for controlling activation of inflation means of the pneumatic belt, where the device is responsive to signals from electromyographic sensors and to pressure sensors that detect variations of internal pressure within said pneumatic belt due to uterine contractions. The apparatus further including a means for analyzing and processing said signals. The prior art fails to teach an apparatus that overcomes the drawbacks of the common and widespread Kristeller technique. Further, the prior art fails to provide the advantage of automatically ensuring the highest accurate coordination between the internal thrust produced by both natural and involuntary uterine contractions and a supplementary thrust produced by means of a pneumatic belt intending to act on a parturient's abdomen. The present invention provides such an advantage in a manner that is safe and able to be utilized with relative simplicity by personnel assisting expectant mothers while being relatively simple to make and being reliable after a prolonged period of service. As such, the prior art suggests a different approach and does not suggest the features or advantages of the invention.

The prior art as a whole fails to direct the person of ordinary skill in the art toward the feature of the invention. Further, the invention includes cooperating features which provide particular advantages which are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Accordingly,

Applicant requests that the Examiner favorably consider new Claims 7-18 in light of the discussion above.

Further and favorable consideration on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



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Enclosed: (3) Sheets of Replacement Drawings
Substitute Specification
Marked-up Copy of Original Specification

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